

From: Harris, Ned [Ned.Harris@avila.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 5:24 PM
Subject: Policy Discussion on Missouri Financial Aid

Mr. Wade:

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Ron Slepitz, President of Avila University, in response to a request from Robert Stein for institutional information that may be useful in the upcoming policy discussion at the February 2009 CBHE meeting. I will respond below to each of the bullet points outlined in Mr. Stein's email.

- 1- Useful Data Elements: It would seem that data on enrollment of Missouri students at Missouri public and private institutions, aid dollars provided by source (state, federal, institutional, private) by institution, average family incomes for Missouri students by institution and sectors (public vs. private, 2 year vs. 4 year), retention, transfer and graduation rates by institution and sectors and Missouri institution alumni in-state workforce statistics would all be useful in informing this policy discussion.
- 2- Institutional Data: Looking back over the past three years, Avila University has conferred undergraduate degrees on 109 Missouri residents who are currently living in the state of Missouri. During those same three years, Avila provided \$1,087,969 in institutional financial aid to these students, while Missouri provided \$295,946 in state grants. The point here is that Avila University is contributing significantly to the cost of its students' educations and to the workforce of Missouri.
- 3- Public Policy: Missouri's current public policy on state financial aid seems to be working as intended. Students receive Access Missouri grants based on their respective financial need and have the ability to use those grants at whatever postsecondary institution in the state that they choose. Since our state, country and citizenry have been served well by the healthy diversity and competition created by a system of higher education that is both public and private, students should continue be the ones to decide how and where to use the state's assistance for postsecondary education. All students' families pay taxes that support these grants and they should all have the opportunity to benefit if they enroll within the state's boundaries.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Cordially,

Ned Harris

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